



Department of Justice

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FATHER, SON BANK ROBBERS CONVICTED

CINCINNATI - A United States District Court jury here today convicted Walter M. Pugh, Jr. age 45, and his son, Tyreese Dorran Pugh, age 22, both of Hamilton, of the April 24, 2002 robbery of the First National Bank of Southeastern Ohio on Peck Road in Hamilton.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, in conjunction with Stanley Borgia, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation; and Chief Neil Ferdleman of the Hamilton Police Department announced the verdict handed down today before presiding United States District Judge David L. Bunning.

Testimony at trial showed that the men entered the branch bank about 2:30 in the afternoon. Tyreese Pugh was wearing a mask and carrying a shotgun. Walter Pugh was holding a long-barreled revolver. Walter Pugh jumped the teller counter, picked up a trash can and ordered a teller to remove money from the drawers and put it in the trash can. He then grabbed the teller by the arm, pointed the gun at her and led her to the bank's vault. There he ordered her to fill the trash can with money. After he told her to stop, he shut her inside the vault. After the robbery, they fled to Atlanta, Georgia.

The jury convicted Walter M. Pugh of conspiracy to commit armed bank robbery, armed bank robbery and use of a firearm during a crime of violence. Both Walter and Tyreese face sentences of up to 5 years on the Conspiracy Count, up to 25 years on the Armed Bank Robbery Count, and a mandatory sentence of 7 years to life on the Use of a Firearm During an Act of Violence which will be imposed consecutive to the abovementioned counts.

Lockhart commended the Hamilton Police officers and FBI agents for their cooperative investigation, and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Amul Thapar and Anthony Springer for their prosecution of the case.

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